

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Those English sparrows haven't a friend in the world, though they manage to thrive amazingly while human beings revile them.

There is, however, an article in the Saturday Review of London on "English Birds in New Zealand" which raises a doubt whether there are any foreign birds out of the undesirable class.

But it should be noted that the new plague has driven away the old, that the country is no longer devastated by caterpillars.

Foodless no longer is the Klondike. Hotelkeepers there say that they never have used celery equal to the celery grown in the Yukon territory.

MARVELS OF SAFE-BUILDING.

Burglars and Earthquakes Defied by a New York Safe.

What is known as the Chemical Bank building in New York can now boast of a safe which not only defies the modern crackman, but also earthquakes and fires.

The safe is a marvel of construction in iron and steel work, and the vault in which it is deposited goes down to a depth of 40 feet.

Another peculiar protective device is an arrangement of steam pipes along the passages, from which, in case of a riot and an attack upon the bank, jets of hot steam could play upon the safe, scalding the assailants.

An equally remarkable device for immediately announcing the presence of an intruder and enterprising burglar is the tell-tale disguised unroll curtain, with which electric wires are connected from the janitor's apartments in the upper part of the building.

ADAMIC.

Adam, envied most of men— And envied mostly for this thing; He wore no coat on which the hairs Of other maids were apt to cling.

The Secret of the Guns.

"So you are in love with him?" said Conrad von Garde, looking curiously at his pretty daughter.

"I don't see how," said the girl, speaking with some diffidence.

"You must!" exclaimed Von Garde, sliding towards her threateningly.

"Never!" was the answer, given in a low determined voice.

"Do you think my object in getting introduced to this particular family was the furtherance of your sentimental fancies?" her father savagely demanded.

"What! you won't?" thundered Von Garde, grasping her wrist viciously.

"I don't wish you to steal; I only want you to help me," she said.

"Suppose I tell him the story of your past; do you think you'll be able to face him then?" sneered Von Garde.

"My only happiness lies in serving my country," replied Von Garde.

tent than fear had come into her life and destroyed his power over her.

Between twelve and one on the first favorable night they crept stealthily into the front garden of Durham's place in Bay-water.

"Stop that, you young fool!" commanded the German, as the burglar dashed an electric torch round the place.

"Well?" questioned Von Garde.

"The envelope was unsealed and he drew out its contents.

"Fool!" hissed the burglar.

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too well founded," the girl reluctantly admitted.

"You wouldn't care to confide in my Veray?" he asked, stepping quickly in front of her and catching her hands in his.

"The girl was lashed into submission by the kindness of his words and actions.

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BITS OF INFORMATION.

Interesting Nubs of Knowledge Which It Might Be Well to Learn.

The first almanac was printed in Hungary in 1791.

The Japanese release pigeons instead of smashing a bottle of wine on the stem of a ship which is being launched.

Italy owns the world's three largest churches—St. Peter's, Rome; The Duomo, Milan; and St. Paul's at Rome.

When an oyster is a fortnight old it is not much larger than the head of a pin.

The largest orchards in the United Kingdom are the lordship of Sutherland, the property of the Duke of Sutherland.

A French statistician estimates that about 550,000 motor-cars have been manufactured in the nine years since the experiments of self-propelled road vehicles first succeeded.

In Brazil, at the funeral of an unmarried woman, the mourning color is scarlet.

The largest orchards in the world are at Werder, near Berlin, Germany.

An enormous mass of water is used for suppressing fires in London.

A curious insect has arrived from Brazil at the South Kensington Museum.

The smallest motor is that made by a German mechanic.

While the average man is satisfied with a maximum of thirty-two teeth, a Turk, near Balfour, in Asia Minor, boasts of forty-five, all perfect.

In the Philippines the use of tobacco is universal.

The most coveted office in the King's Household is the salary is £2,500 a year, and there are some valuable privileges and perquisites, including the use of the Royal horses and carriages.

The British House of Commons and local representative assemblies are not the only places where word-spinning has developed into an art.

A rare opportunity of leasing an English royal palace is now offered to any one whose ambition tends that way.

The old Palace of Richmond, which has come into the market, was formerly part of the royal palace at Sheen, once the home of Anglo-Saxon monarchs, and has a history almost as interesting as the Tower of London.

Edward III. died there in 1377. After his death the palace was pillaged by the servants.

The last royal person to reside in the palace was Queen Charlotte, to whom a lease was granted in 1817.

The remotest association with Royalty, delights the snob.

THE WORLD OVER.

Tin-Bits of Information About Most Everything.

A single ton of steel will make 10,000 gross of steel pens.

The growth of girls is greatest in their fifteenth year, of boys in their seventeenth.

There are 41,000 foot soldiers in the British Army, according to a statement made by Army-Surgeon Evalt.

British India has the swiftest river in the world. It is the Sittoung, which, in 186 miles, has a descent of 12,000 feet.

Savings banks are established in 228 schools in Scotland. There are 35,712 depositors, with £9,738 to their credit.

When the herring fishery season is at its height, something like 5,000 or 6,000 miles of nets are set nightly in the North Sea.

The biggest trout in English waters this season has been captured by Mr. H. Currell, jun., of Hertford. It scaled 13 pounds 3 ounces.

The world's oceans hold in solution at least 2,000,000 tons of silver. There is also much copper and a little gold in sea water.

Doctors in Sweden never send bills to their patients, the amount of their remuneration being left entirely to the generosity of the latter.

All over the world there are 562,436 miles of railway lines of new open American, with its vast territory, has 285,781 miles, and Europe is a poor second with 193,133 miles.

The largest orchards in the world are at Werder, near Berlin, Germany. They extend without a break to about 13,000 acres. They yield about 48,000,000 pounds of apples and pears every year.

Some trees are much more liable to be struck by lightning than others. Thus the oak and the elm are often struck and destroyed, the ash is never struck, and the beech, it is said, rarely.

The Vatican was thoroughly cleaned lately, and a quantity of repainting done. The work employed 5,700 people for six months.

At Stenton, Preskonkirk, England, is a wonderful hen—a first cross between a black Minorca and a buff Orpington. This hen has just laid an egg weighing 6 ounces, and measuring 9 inches by 8 inches circumference.

In Java women and young girls do all the work of porters, carrying heavy loads on their heads with great skill.

The largest quill in the world is near Paris, where it is an annual product of 200,000,000 quills.

The factory was started to make quill pens, but when these went out of general use it was converted into a tooth-pick mill.

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THE SNOB.

He is One of the Most Despicable of Beings.

Every day we come across some specimen of the genus snob, and it is well to show him up here, for if we do not scorn ourselves against his airs with a cross-plate of humor and a buckler of contempt, we plain, common-sense folk may at times feel humbled by his assumed superiority.

The snob, as Thackeray defined him, is a man who meekly admires mean things—otherwise one who thinks nothing worth while unless it is reckoned what he would term "the thing."

The snob would let his old mother go hungry rather than do without a fashionable suit of clothes, and he is fond of dragging into his conversation particulars of any remote connection he or his family may have had with some celebrated person.

He will not even express an opinion upon any question until he has ascertained what is the fashionable view to take. He will give alms to a beggar, if he thinks he will be observed.

The snob, Leave him alone, poor wretch! He may gain wisdom with increasing years.

Neighbor—"Did you break this window, Charlie?" Charlie—"Well, I helped. Neighbor—"Helped? How helped?" Charlie—"It was a ball that broke it—I threw the ball."

"But this is so sudden. You had better give me a week to think it over." "Very well, dear. And perhaps it would be as well if I thought it over myself at the same time!"

Teacher: "What is the difference between lightning and electricity?" Bright Pupil: "Lightning is free, and electricity costs money."